



FILE DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT

Thurgood Marshall

FILE NO.

Headquarters file 44-O-A

Marshall: Timetable for Integration

APPROX

By SIDNEY HIELDS

Thurgood Marshall pointed to a news picture of the Rev. Martin Luther King being arrested for "loitering" in Montgomery, Ala., by two policemen.

"This picture will be printed all over the world, especially in Communist countries," Marshall said. "And King was only waiting to go into a courtroom. It's unbelievable! Yet, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is accused of feeding the Communist propaganda mill."

Marshall is the Director and Counsel of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund. This Thursday he will argue his 21st case before the U. S. Supreme Court, pleading for immediate integration at Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

Like the Rev. King's picture, the arguments, the Court's decision and the aftermath, will be printed and talked about around the world.

Marshall has won 18 of his pleas before the Court. He always presents with quiet brilliance. Without any oratory he uses simple terms for complex legal arguments, and offers them with evident sincerity and a complete mastery of the law. What was the biggest victory?

"Each one was the biggest,"

he said. "You have to feel that way if you want to win."

OUT OF COURT he's given to easy laughter, tells a good joke. A big man, six feet, two, 305 pounds, now 50, he's a vestryman in his church, and his only amusement, outside his work, is playing with his two young sons, Thurgood, Jr., two, and John William, two months. They are the children of his second marriage. His first wife died of lung cancer.

Marshall's father was a country club steward; his mother recently retired after teaching school for 25 years, and now lives near him. They managed to make Marshall a lawyer and his brother a surgeon.

As a kid in Baltimore, Md., Marshall was the prankster in elementary school and was constantly being punished.

"But it was good punishment," he said. "They made me memorize sections of the Constitution. I knew it word for word by the time I got out."

AFTER Lincoln University in Pennsylvania he went to Howard University Law School because he couldn't get an education in Maryland. He worked as the Student Librarian, which paid for his tuition, and commuted daily between Baltimore and Washington, D. C., 40 miles. Even before he was graduated at the head of his class he was writing briefs for civil rights cases.

"I suppose that's how I got into this work here," he said. In the 18 months he practiced privately, he had fewer cases with fees than civil rights cases without fees.

In April, 1935 he fought and won his first big case, involving the admission of Negroes to the University of Maryland. The next year he was hired by the NAACP on a temporary basis at \$2,400 a year. A year ago he reached \$15,000, and he's still a



WHO FEEDS RED PROPAGANDA MILL? Rev. Martin Luther King being arrested for "loitering" (above). King organized the successful boycott against "Jim Crow" buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

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N. Y. Daily News _____
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temporary, on a year to year basis. He could do much better elsewhere, could have run for public office, could even have had a Federal judgeship.

"But this is far more important," he said, "and I haven't finished my work here yet."

TO MARSHALL the issue of segregation is now for the first time clearly defined: "It's not whether Negro children attend white schools, but whether any state can oppose the Federal government. The issue is simply whether the U. S. Constitution is supreme."

It's inevitable that the U. S. Supreme Court will order integration. What Arkansas Gov. Faubus does after that will determine the course of immediate events.

"One of our big problems here is to keep Negroes from taking retaliatory measures," Marshall said. "But I, for one, will never tell a man not to protect his family and home."

When will integration become an accepted fact?

"As far as the law is concerned I think it will be resolved this school term, either in Virginia or Arkansas. Then, we will have to fight it county by county in the South until perhaps 1963, the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. After that it will take a generation before it's complete, so both white and Negro accept each other on their merits."

His job will end when the law on the books holds any and all forms of enforced segregation illegal. The spotlight is on school integration, but Marshall is still fighting for the Negro's right to vote in areas of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi.

"In Hattiesburg, Mississippi," Marshall said, "that right to vote is determined by the Negro's answer to the question: 'How many bubbles in a bar of soap?' No, my job isn't finished yet."

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